THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The banks write off amounts in non-performing asset (NPA) accounts in accordance with their board approved policies and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, either as part of compromise settlement with the borrowers or where the debt has been classified as a 'loss' asset. The Management Information System of RBI does not generate data in the desired manner. However, the bank group-wise details of amount of write-off including compromise by the scheduled commercial banks during the last three years are as under:-

(Amount Rs. in crore)

Bank Group	31.03.2006	31.03.2007	31.03.2008
Public Sector banks	8,833	9,423	8,021
New private sector banks	1,409	1,232	1,577
Old private sector banks	544	618	724
Foreign banks	905	590	1,339
Total	11,691	11,863	11,661

Bank robberies

2363. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dacoities, robberies and thefts committed by criminal gangs in various banks in the country and quantum of money involved;

(b) the number of cases detected and charge-sheet filed; and

(c) the number of cases in which the amounts are fully or partly recovered with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they have no information of criminal gangs who have committed dacoities, robberies and thefts in various banks. However, number of dacoities, robberies and thefts as reported by banks to RBI and quantum of money involved therein during the calender year 2007 and 2008 (upto June) as also number of cases in which the amounts are fully or partly recovered and the amounts recovered, are as under:-

(Amt. in lakhs)

	Cases reported during 2007		Cases reported during 2008 (upto June)		Cases in which amount recovered during 2007		Cases in which amount recovered during 2008 (upto June)	
	No.	Amt. involved	No.	Amt. involved	No.	Amt. involved	No.	Amt. involved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Public Sector Banks	471	1187.43	233	626.99	19	200.27	8	51.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Private Sector Banks	35	351.64	27	788.52	8	191.64	11	225.73
Foreign Banks	1	21.17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	507	1560.24	260	1415.51	27	391.91	19	277.09

Follow up action of each case of dacoities/robberies/thefts etc. is monitored by the banks concerned. However, all the cases detected by banks are reported to RBI. Banks invariably file police complaints in such cases.

Loss of opium crop due to cold wave

†2364. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the opium produced in the country is procured by Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cold wave has ruined opium crop this time round;

(c) if so, whether Government has worked out a plan to compensate the loss of opium growers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Madam.

(b) Yes Madam. Cold wave affected opium crop in some parts of the opium growing regions.

(c) and (d) Opium poppy is a commercial crop which is purchased from the farmers by the Govt. The farmers can take protective measures (like insurance). There is no scheme for the Government of India to give compensation to farmers for such losses.

Futures Trading Policy

2365. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the futures trading policy of Government has resulted in extreme inflation and has encouraged the practice of speculation to a greater extent;

(b) whether it is a fact that billions of Indian currency is going abroad leading to hike in most of the commodities as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider imposing ban on futures, trading in order to check inflation;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.